treatment to poor patients is available either free or at nominal cost. Poor patients living below poverty line can also avail of financial assistance from National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) being operated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

AIDS

As far as AIDS is concerned, it is a fact that treatment of this disease is costly. There is no scheme to provide subsidized medicines for the treatment of this disease for the poor patients. However for diagnosis of the disease there is a subsidized fee of Rs. 10/- at the Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres at the district level.

Adult morbidity rate

1940. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Adult morbidity high in slums", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 17th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to reverse the trend;

(c) the parameters maintained in this regard amongst slum dwellers in four metropolis; and

(d) the adult morbidity rates in slum area of other developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. While the Government of NCT of Delhi is an appropriate authority to take necessary action on the findings of above research study, the following steps have been taken to improve the condition of living of slum dwellers:—

A scheme known as National Slum Development Programme (NSDP) was launched at National level in 1996 to ameliorate the living condition of the urban slum dwellers. Under the scheme, Funds are provided in the form of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for provision of basic amenities like water supply, storm water drains, community bath, widening and paving of existing lanes, sewers, community latrines etc. Community primary health care central buildings can also be provided under the scheme.

In addition to above, a new scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) has been launched in December, 2001 to provide shelter/ shelter upgradation to the slum dwellers living below poverty line including economically weaker sections. This scheme has a component for providing community toilet facility also to slum dwellers. The Central Government provides a subsidy to the projects of the State Governments to the extent of 50% while the balance to be met by the State Governments either through loans from Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) or other agencies or contribution from any source.

(c) and (d) The information in Ministry is not being maintained.

Medical check up camps in jhuggi clusters in Delhi

1941. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people living in jhuggi clusters in the vicinity of the garbage dumping area on the outskirts of Delhi are facing health threat;

(b) whether medical check up camps have been organized recently in the adjoining areas of the garbage dumping grounds;

(c) if so, the details of such camps that were organized in the past one year; and

(d) the details of diseases detected from these areas and the action taken to protect the people from any serious epidemic or health hazard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) It has been reported by Municipal Corporation of Delhi that people living in jhuggi clusters in the vicinity of the garbage dumping area on the outskirts of Delhi are not facing health threat and no medical check up camps were organized recently in these areas.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.